(b) if so, whether adequate surveillance is being kept on our nearly 5400 kilometres coastline so that our off-shore oil installations are safely guarded and our imports through sea row amounting to nearly Rs. 1,500,000 crores and also substantial exports are not adversely affected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Cost Guard in coordination with the State Police and the Navy. The measures that have been taken and planned to enhance the coastal security include regular aerial surveillance and maritime patrolling along the coast and establishment of coastal police stations in the littoral States as part of Coastal Security Scheme. The Indian Navy has an elaborate arrangement to thwart threats at sea. Such measures are regularly updated in coordination with the Indian Coast Guard and other central as well as local agencies. In addition, patrolling along India's International Maritime Boundary Line, cooperation with India's maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement and platform signature, etc., are some of other measures for maintaining good order at sea in the region. India also holds interactions with other countries, in which issues of mutual interest including providing security to sea-lanes in the Indian Ocean Region are discussed.

Delay in Induction of Arjun Tank

†891. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable delay is taking place for the induction of Arjun tank in the Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the speedy manufacturing of Arjun tank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been some delay due to frequent design modification and the time required to procure some major assemblies.

(c) The necessary steps have been taken to ensure timely availability of all critical aggregates. Production of the MBT Arjun tank is being regularly monitored through working Group Meeting held under the chairmanship of Director General Mechanised Forces and Steering Committee Meeting held under the Co-Chairmanship of Secretary (Defence Production) and Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri.

MIG-21 Crashes

892. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents which took place during the last three years involving fighter plane MiG-21 and number of lives lost;

(b) whether Government is considering to review the further use of MiG-21; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 10 accidents took place involving MiG-21 aircraft during the last three years and the current

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

year so far *i.e.* during 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 (till 20th November, 2007). Seven persons have lost their lives in these accidents.

(b) and (c) Use of aircraft in Indian Air Force is constantly reviewed based on operational requirements and other parameters like serviceability, air worthiness, technical and operational life and induction of new advanced aircraft.

Low price of CSD items

893. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumable items sold in CSD canteens are low in prices or tax exempted;

(b) if so, how much profit Defence has incurred during the last 5 years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a limit has been fixed for purchasing of items by an individual; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Various tax concessions and bulk-buying discounts account for lower prices of the consumables sold in CSD.

(b) The audited net profit earned during the last 5 years for all products, upto financial year 2005-2006, is Rs. 788.51 Crores.

(c) and (d) Limits have been laid down so that whilst genuine needs of an individual are met, bulk purchases due to cheaper rates and diversion of goods to local market are prevented. Limit is planned commensurate with purchasing power of an individual indexed to his pay.

Inquiry into kickbacks in defence purchases

894. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is inquiring into allegations of kickbacks in the purchase of arms, equipments, etc. by Army, Navy and Air force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of arms, ammunition, equipments etc. purchased or deals finalized by Army, Navy and Air Force during the last three years;

(d) the measures taken to plug loopholes in the defence purchase system; and

(e) whether complaints of irregular purchase of computers etc. by Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and other defence establishments have come to the notice of his Ministry and if so, the action taken against the guilty officials for suppressing the true facts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Whenever any allegation of corruption in defence deals is received, the same is seriously looked into by the Ministry and wherever considered necessary, the case is referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). At present there are six cases at Regular Case and five at Preliminary Enquiry stage with CBI.

(c) It will not be in the interest of National Security to disclose the details relating to procurement of Arms, Ammunitions, equipments, etc. for Armed Forces.

(d) Government has laid down elaborate procedures for procurement of defence equipments, weapons and stores. In addition, the guidelines prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) are also followed. The procedures prescribed include Defence Procurement Procedure 2006 for capital acquisition and Defence Procurement Manual 2006 for revenue purchase. These procedures are also reviewed periodically.